



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MEDIA REMINDER**

### **PSC TO HOLD LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING IN INNSBROOK ON REQUEST TO EXPAND THE ST. LOUIS MCA**

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold a local public hearing in **Innsbrook, Missouri on January 18, 2006**, to receive customer comment in a case seeking expansion of the current St. Louis Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) plan. Under the Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) plan, subscribing customers in an MCA exchange can have certain outgoing and incoming toll-free calling benefits and would pay a flat monthly rate for the MCA service.

The local public hearing schedule for Innsbrook, Missouri appears below:

**January 18, 2006**

**Innsbrook**

Innsbrook Resort and Conference Center

Aspen Room

#1 Aspen Circle Drive

5:30 pm\*

**\* At 5:30 pm, the PSC Staff will conduct an informal session to answer questions from the public. The local public hearing where testimony is taken will begin at 6:00 pm. The local public hearing will continue until the public in attendance has had an opportunity to testify, but in no case later than 8:00 pm.**

The Commission has before it a case requesting expansion of the St. Louis Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) plan to include the telephone exchanges of Washington, Union, Wright City, St. Clair, Marthasville, Beaufort, Foley and Warrenton. The Office of the Public Counsel, which filed the request, suggested that a new Tier 6 be added to the St. Louis MCA plan and that it be priced the same as Tier 5 exchanges --\$32.50 a month for residential customers and \$70.70 a month for business customers.

The Office of the Public Counsel proposed the service be optional and would be an additional charge above the charge for local service and any other Extended Area Service (EAS) charges. Customers subscribing to the optional service would be required to change their current telephone number.

**SBC Missouri exchanges (Beaufort, St. Clair, Union and Washington):** An agreement has been filed with the Public Service Commission involving these exchanges of SBC Missouri. Under the agreement, the four SBC Missouri exchanges would be added to Tier 5 of the current St. Louis MCA plan. MCA would be an optional service and subscribers would pay an additional \$32.50 a month (residential) and \$70.70 a month (business) if they want the service.

The agreement states that customers in these four SBC Missouri exchanges that choose to subscribe to MCA service will need to have their telephone numbers changed to reflect MCA telephone numbers.

**CenturyTel exchanges (Foley, Marthasville, Warrenton and Wright City):** The Office of the Public Counsel's recommendation would apply to these exchanges as well. CenturyTel has indicated to the Commission that it is diligently pursuing settlement discussions and negotiations but that an agreement has not been reached at this time.